

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

In the Office action mail 05/17/2006, apparatus claims 1-11 were allowed.

Method claims 12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Method claims 12 and 14 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tate et al., and as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) by Yoshida.

Claim 13 was additionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida.

This AMENDMENT cancels method claims 12-14 in favor of new claims 15-17 which are believed to overcome the above rejections.

With regard to the 35 U.S.C. 101 rejection of claim 15-17, note that claims 15-17 obviously do assert a practical application. Also, note that the result is useful, concrete and tangible result and not "merely a determined value of a remainder without practical application."

With regard to the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103 rejections of claims 12-14 based on the Tate et al., and Yoshida, it will be noted that new claims 15-17 add limitations which clearly overcome these rejections, as will be evident by

comparing the limitations contained in claims 15-17 with those in allowed claims 1-11. For further support in this regard, applicant directs the Examiner to the portions of applicant's Appeal Brief which point out the deficiencies of the Tate et al., and Yoshida patents.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that new claims 15-17 are allowable along with allowed claims 1-11.

Allowance of this application is accordingly, respectfully solicited.

Reg. No. 18,931

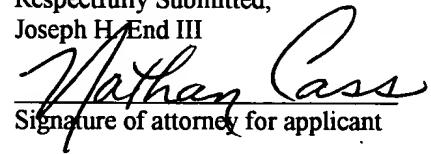
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